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In the Claims:

1. (original) A liquid intumescent coating composition comprising a resin system comprising at least one polymeric component, at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component and at least one intumescent ingredient, the coating composition being curable to a solid state by free radical polymerisation.
2. (original) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said at least one polymeric component comprises solid thermoplastic resin.
3. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the at least one polymeric component comprises at least one homopolymer, copolymer and/or terpolymer of a methacrylic resin.
4. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the at least one polymeric component comprises a meth (acrylate) copolymer.
5. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the at least one polymeric component comprises the reaction product of at least one of styrene vinyl toluene together with at least one of any of the following:- methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate t-butyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxy ethyl methacrylate, 2- hydroxy propyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-hydroxy ethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxy propyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.

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6. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the at least one polymeric component comprises the reaction product of one or more diene together with at least one any of the following : - styrene, vinyl toluene, vinyl chloride, vinyl acetate, vinylidene chloride and vinyl versate esters.
7. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component has at least one of a methacrylate or acrylate functionality.
8. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component comprises any of the following either alone or in combination :-methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate t-butyl methacrylate, 2- ethylhexyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate t-butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.
9. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the resin system constitutes from 20% to 60% of the coating composition.
10. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said at least one polymeric component constitutes from 10% to 50% by weight of the resin system.
11. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component constitutes from 30% to 90% by weight of the resin system.

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12. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said at least one intumescent ingredient comprises an acid source, a carbon source and a gas source.

13. (original) A method of curing a liquid intumescent coating composition to a solid state by free radical polymerisation comprising the step of adding an initiator to the liquid .
intumescent coating composition, wherein the coating composition comprises at least one polymeric component, at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component and at least one intumescent ingredient.

14. (original) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coating is curable on initiation by organic peroxide.

15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the organic peroxide comprises any of the following either alone or in combination :- diacyl peroxides, ketone peroxides, peroxyesters, dialkyl peroxides, hydroperoxides and peroxyketals.

16. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 ~~any of claims 13 to 15~~, wherein the coating composition is cured in less than 60 minutes at a temperature of 20 C +/- 3 C.

17. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 ~~any of claims 13 to 16~~, wherein less than 5% by weight of volatile components is lost by evaporation during the conversion of the composition to a solid state by the addition of an organic peroxide.